

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02891 171715Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 171340Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5460
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBSSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGAGA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PO, SP
SUBJECT: UCD DELEGATION VISITS PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: A FOUR-MEMBER DELEGATION OF THE SPANISH UNION OF
DEMOCRATIC CENTER (UCD) HEADED BY SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER
RUPEREZ COMPLETED A THREE-DAY VISIT TO PORTUGAL APRIL 13.
BILATERAL AND INTER-PARTY RELATIONS HEADED THE AGENDA.
PORTUGAL AND SPAIN ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT
ELIMINATING PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DURING
THE UPCOMING VISIT OF KING JUAN CARLOS IN MAY. RUPEREZ ALSO
CLAIMED THAT A MAJORITY OF SPANIARDS FAVOR NATO ENTRY.
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02891 171715Z

END SUMMARY.

1. UCD VISIT: SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER RUPEREZ, RICARDO
LEON HERRERA, FRANCISCO MENDES BOAS, AND ARTUR MOYA OF THE
SPAISH UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER (UCD) VISITED PORTUGAL
APRIL 11-13. THE DELEGATION MET WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE
FIRMINO MIGUEL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SA MACHADO, MINISTER

OF INTERIOR JAIME GAMA, MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM
RUI PENA, OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AND PS, PSD, LEADERS.

2. ISSUES DISCUSSED: IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, RUPEREZ STATED
THAT HIS TALKS WITH VARIOUS GROUPS HAD INCLUDED:

- OPEN BORDERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES;
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER AREAS;
- NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS;
- ELIMINATION OF PASSPORT USE FOR CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES;
- CULTURAL EXCHANGES; AND,
- MILITARY COOPERATION.

3. PASSPORT ELIMINATION: RUPEREZ SAID THAT IT WAS
LIKELY THAT THE GOS AND GOP WOULD SIGN AN AGREEMENT ELIMINATING
THE USE OF PASSPORTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DURING THE
UPCOMING VISIT OF KING JUAN CARLOS. MEANWHILE,
INTERIOR MINISTER JAIME GAMA BEGAN A THREE-DAY VISIT TO
MADRID APRIL 16 TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT AGREEMENT.
GAMA, WHO WAS INVITED BY HIS SPANISH COUNTERPART
MARTIN VILLA, IS ACCOMPANIED BY COMMANDANT OF THE
PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE GENERAL NEVES CARDOSO, REPUBLICAN
NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDANT GENERAL PASSOS ESMERIZ, AND INTERIOR
MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS COLONEL
RAMIRES RAMOS.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 02891 171715Z

4. RELATIONS WITH THE CDS: RUPEREZ SAID THAT THE UCD WAS
IDEOLOGICALLY CLOSER TO THE CDS THAN ANY OTHER PORTUGUESE PARTY.
HE STATED THAT THE TWO PARTIES WOULD CONTINUE THEIR DIALOGUE
THROUGH REGULAR AND FREQUENT CONTACTS. THE DELEGATION INVITED
CDS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY AZEVEDO COUTINHO TO VISIT MADRID IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY AND NATO: IN A SOMEWHAT BROADER CONTEXT,
RUPEREZ SAID THAT SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE BASED ON SOLIDARITY

AND APPROXIMATION TO EUROPE, THE WEST, THE COMMON MARKET, AND
NATO. RUPEREZ NOTED THAT SPAIN DID NOT WANT TO JOIN EFTA,
BUT WOULD MAINTAIN REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE
POLITICAL PARTIES REGARDING ENTRY OF THE TWO COUNTRIES
INTO THE EEC. ACCORDING TO RUPEREZ, SPANISH NATO ENTRY WOULD NOT
INFLUENCE SPANISH RELATIONS WITH AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. HE
WENT ON TO CITE RECENT SPANISH POLLS WHICH INDICATE THAT A
LARGE MAJORITY FAVOR NATO MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN.

6. UNRESOLVED ISSUES: THE UCD SEC GEN SAID THAT THE ISSUE
OF INDEMNIZATIONS FOR SPANISH FIRMS NATIONALIZED IN PORTUGAL
WAS STILL OPEN, BUT SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE NEARLY

COMPLETE. HE ADDED THAT SPANISH FIRMS HAD AN INTEREST IN INVESTING IN PORTUGAL.

7. COMMENT: THE UCD VISIT UNDERSCORES THE INCREASINGLY CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. ELIMINATION OF PASSPORT USE SHOULD PLEASE THE SPANISH, WHO HAVE BEEN PUSHING THE PORTUGUESE ON THIS ISSUE FOR SOME TIME.
BLOOMFIELD

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